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WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



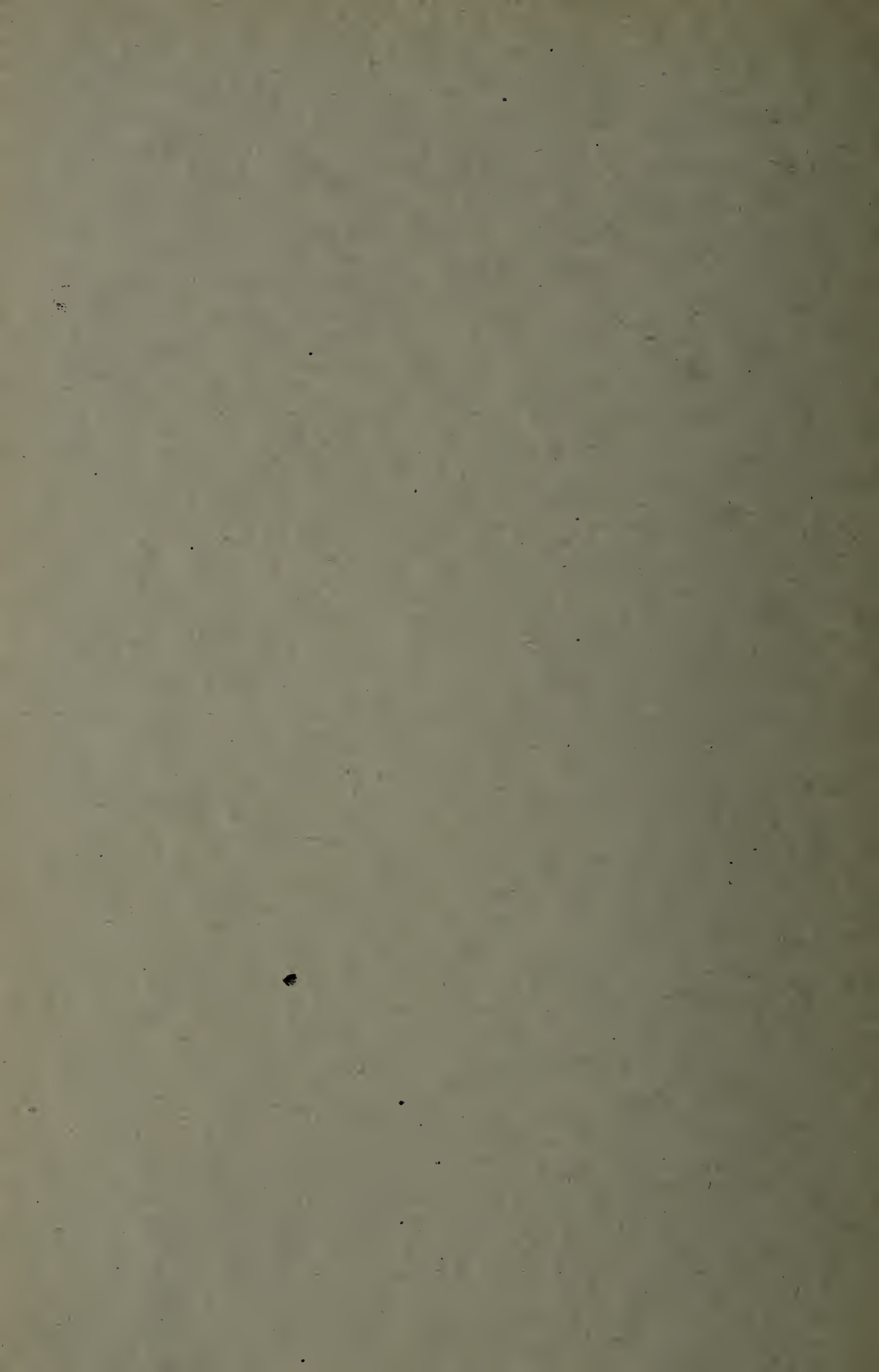
ANNUAL REPORT

by

F. W. BUNTING, M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health for the Whiston Rural District

FOR THE YEAR 1948



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WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

*The Chairman and Members of the
Whiston Rural District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the health of Whiston Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

I am happy to report that the health of the community has remained satisfactory during the year.

The death rate at 7.9 per 1,000 is not only below that for England and Wales (10.8) but is the lowest recorded for over 15 years with the exception of 1942 when it was 7.7. per thousand.

The birth rate of 14.4 per 1,000 shows a reduction on the rate for 1947.

The infantile mortality rate of 73 per 1,000 live births shows a reduction on the previous year when the figure was 80.

The incidence of infectious disease shows a decrease, 799 cases being notified compared with 866 during 1947.

There was a marked decrease in the incidence of measles, but this was offset by an increase in the number of cases of whooping cough.

I am happy to report that only 4 cases of diphtheria were notified during the year compared with 6 during 1947. This is a further indication of the efficacy of the immunisation scheme.

On the 5th July, 1948, the inception of the National Health Service Act resulted in the Council's Diphtheria Scheme and Home Help Scheme being transferred to the Lancashire County Council, who are the local health authority. These schemes are now administered by the local Divisional Health Committee and as this Council is represented on this Committee and your Medical Officer of Health is also the Divisional Medical Officer there is no reason why these services should not continue to be as efficient as they have been in the past.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the willing assistance I have received from the officials of the Council and in particular from Mr. W. H. Bone, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

F. W. BUNTING.

WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department

Officers :

Medical Officer of Health :

F. W. BUNTING, M.D., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector...	...	...	...	...	W. H. BONE, C.R.S.I.
Dep. Chief Sanitary Inspector...	...	...	...	...	A. RIGBY, C.R.S.I.
Additional Sanitary Inspector...	...	...	...	...	J. G. EVANS, C.R.S.I.
Additional Sanitary Inspector...	....	...	...	...	W. G. REED, C.R.S.I.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1948

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres : 29,440 Population—Census, 1931 : 22,864

Registrar-General's estimate of Population, mid-1948 38,360

Number of inhabited houses—

(a) Census, 1931	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4,808
(b) End of 1948 according to rate books	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9,911

Rateable value : £212,692 Sum represented by a penny rate : £840

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area :—

The inhabitants are mostly of the working class. The chief industries are agriculture, coal mining, brass founding and stove making. There is also one chemical works, where nearly all the employees live outside the district. A number of light industries have been established on the Kirkby Trading Estate but most of the employees live outside the Rural area.

Live Births—

			Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	....	....	527	292	235
Illegitimate	....	....	29	17	12
		Total	556	309	247

Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1948—14.4

			Total	M.	F.
Stillbirths	....	....	9	6	3
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—15					

Deaths	Total	M.	F.
	305	165	140

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population—7.9

Deaths from puerperal causes—

	Deaths	Death-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	nil.	nil.
Other maternal	nil.	nil.
Total maternal mortality	nil.	nil.

Death-rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	73
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	68
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	172

Principal Causes of Deaths—

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	....	....	....	....	54
„ Measles (all ages)	....	....	....	....	—
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	....	....	....	....	—
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	....	....	....	....	9

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Until 5th July, 1948, the Ambulance facilities were provided as follows :—

<i>For</i>	<i>Provided by</i>
(a) Infectious cases	Motor Ambulances provided by Whiston, Huyton and Prescott Joint Hospital Board.
(b) Non-infectious cases	Lancashire County Council, County Hospital, Whiston.
(c) Accident cases	Lancashire County Council, County Hospital Whiston.
(d) Maternity cases	Lancashire County Council, County Hospital, Whiston.

On the 5th July, 1948, the Lancashire County Council as the local Health Committee became responsible for the administration of all Ambulance services in the County area and the aforementioned services are now being administered on their behalf by the local Divisional Health Committee.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities available are Liverpool City Bacteriologist, School of Hygiene, Liverpool and County Mental Hospital, Rainhill.

HOSPITALS IN THE DISTRICT

- (a) Public Hospitals :—County Hospital, Whiston : Annexe County Mental Hospital.
- (b) Voluntary Hospitals :—St. Joseph's Heart Hospital in the Parish of Rainhill.

Institutional Provision in the Area for :—

- Unmarried mothers :—Delphside, Warrington Road, Whiston, Lancashire County Council.
- Illegitimate infants :—Delphside, Warrington Road, Whiston, Lancashire County Council.
- Homeless children :—Delphside, Warrington Road, Whiston, Lancashire County Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply :—

Liverpool Corporation, St. Helens Corporation, Widnes Corporation and Warrington Corporation are the supplying authorities for the area. The sources of supply are deep wells and upland surface water. No new sources of supply have been acquired during the year.

Supplies to Houses :—

Parish	From Public Mains				Private Supplies, e.g., wells, springs, etc.	
	Direct to houses		By means of st'dpipe		No. of dwelling- houses	No. of popula'n
	No. of dwelling- houses	No. of popula'n	No. of dwelling- houses	No. of popula'n		
Bold	522	2100	0	0	0	0
Cronton	189	600	0	0	0	0
Eccleston	1410	6500	0	0	4	12
Hale	250	700	0	0	0	0
Halewood	752	2400	0	0	1	6
Kirkby	653	3406	0	0	14	35
Knowsley	1567	5800	0	0	7	24
Rainhill	1622	6500	13	44	1	3
Tarbock	202	600	0	0	2	7
Whiston	1725	6800	7	16	0	0
Windle	967	3000	0	0	3	12
Total	9859	38400	20	60	32	99

The water supply of the area, and of its several parts has been satisfactory in quality and quantity with the exception of parts of the Parish of Halewood. In this connection, representation has been made to the supplying authority and they have given an undertaking that certain work is to be put in hand in order to improve the supply of water to the area referred to. One sample of water was taken for bacteriological examination in the Parish of Kirkby from a supply where treatment is installed. This sample proved satisfactory.

During the year under review the water supplying Authorities have carried out extensions of mains within the Rural District as follows :—

- 3in.—441 yards St. Helens Corporation.
- 4in.—153 yards St. Helens Corporation.
- 3in.—429 yards Widnes Corporation.
- 4in.—1520 yards Widnes Corporation.
- 3in.—726 yards Liverpool Corporation.
- 4in.—896 yards Liverpool Corporation.

Drainage and Sewerage :—

Bold. Clock Face area. Sedimentation and filtration. In other parts of the Parish houses are provided with septic tanks or cesspools.

Cronton. The drainage arrangements in this Parish are unsatisfactory. There is no sewage disposal works. The bulk of the property is drained into septic tanks and ditches in the Parish are polluted.

Eccleston. Part of the Parish is sewered into the Corporation of St. Helens sewers and part into the sewage works at Whiston.

Hale. Part of the district is sewered and drained to sedimentation tank. This scheme is unsatisfactory. Many houses have their own septic tanks and these arrangements are unsatisfactory.

Halewood. Sewage Works. The larger portion of the property in the built up area is drained to sewage works sedimentation and filtration—other properties to septic tanks.

Kirkby. Some of the properties are drained to Liverpool Corporation sewer, whilst houses erected during the war for employees at the then Royal Ordnance Factory are drained to sewage works—sedimentation and filtration—others to septic tank or cesspool.

Knowsley. Some of the property in this Parish is drained to Liverpool Corporation sewers, whilst one estate comprising 494 houses is connected to a sewage works—sedimentation and filtration—outlying properties to septic tanks or cesspools.

Rainhill. Sedimentation and irrigation, unsatisfactory. New sewage scheme awaiting approval of Ministry of Health.

Tarbock. This is a Rural Parish sparsely populated. No sewage works. Principally cesspools and septic tanks.

Whiston. Sedimentation and filtration. Proposals for remodelling sewage works.

Windle. Moss Bank area to sewage works—sedimentation and filtration, other parts in St. Helens Corporation sewers. Outlying areas septic tanks or cesspools.

The Parishes of Cronton and Tarbock being largely rural in character are without proper drainage system.

Rivers and streams :—

Sources and nature of any pollution :—From sewage works and chemical works.

Action taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams :—Samples of sewage and trade effluent taken and submitted occasionally for analysis.

Closet accommodation at end of 1948 :—

Privy Middens	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	914
No. of closets attached to these middens	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1079
No. of pail closets	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	96
No. of dry ashpits (exc. middens)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	240
No. of movable ashbins	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	7285
No. of trough closets	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	None
No. of waste water closets	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	None
No. of fresh water closets	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9671
No. of houses on water carriage system	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	8544

Conversions during 1948 :—

No. of privy closets to fresh W.C.'s :—24

No. of houses at which movable ashbins were substituted for fixed receptacles :—44

Public Cleansing :—

The work of refuse removal and disposal is undertaken by the Local Authority in 10 Parishes and in one Parish the work is carried out partly by contract and partly by the Local Authority. Cleansing of cesspools and septic tanks is undertaken by the Council at the request of owners or occupiers.

Sanitary Inspections during 1948—(including Housing)

No. of premises visited :—4,393

Defects or nuisances :—No. discovered 844 No. abated 654

No. of notices served :—Informal 170 Statutory 29

Legal proceedings :—None

Smoke Abatement :—

No special action has been taken with regard to smoke abatement. There are 9 factory chimneys within the Rural District.

23 observations were made of these chimneys during the year and where excessive smoke was being emitted the attention of the persons concerned was drawn to the fact and in most cases co-operation between factories and the Public Health Department resulted in improvements.

Disinfestation :—

Particulars of action taken during 1948 :—

No. of houses found to be infested—

(a) Council houses 3

(b) Other houses 23

No. of houses disinfested—

(a) Council houses 3

(b) Other houses 23

The disinfestation was carried out by the use of Gammexane and Neocid Powder and when spraying was necessary Zaldecyde plus D.D.T. was used. These have proved to be most satisfactory.

Where it has been found necessary to disinfest belongings of tenants before removal to Council Houses Hydro-cyanide is used and this work is carried out under contract.

Schools :—

The sanitary conditions of schools is satisfactory with the exception of some of the older schools. Water supplies to the schools in all cases was satisfactory.

Chief Sanitary requirements of the district :—

It is desirable that the Council undertake the provision of sewage disposal schemes in the Parishes of Cronton, Hale and Knowsley and that the making up of unmade streets and particularly back passages should be undertaken.

HOUSING

During 1948 housing continued to be one of the chief matters claiming the attention of the Local Authority. In spite of the fact that the progress was somewhat restricted by the lack of materials etc. the Council completed during the year under review 87 traditional permanent houses, together with 161 permanent prefabricated dwellings and 34 temporary prefabricated dwellings, whilst a further 44 traditional permanent houses were completed by private builders.

At the end of the year, the erection of 46 traditional brick houses and 36 Airey permanent prefabricated houses were in hand by the Council whilst a further 100 traditional brick houses were contemplated.

There does not appear to be any special difficulties in finding suitable housing sites within the district.

Sufficiency of supply of houses :—

The number and type of houses required to alleviate the present shortage :

2 bedroom type	....	....	....	....	....	695
3 bedroom type	....	....	....	....	....	182
4 bedroom type	....	....	....	....	....	154
5 bedroom type	....	....	....	....	....	38
						<hr/>
Total	....	....				1069
						<hr/>

Overcrowding :—

25 cases of overcrowding in houses owned by the Local Authority have been relieved during 1948 and none of these houses have again become overcrowded since the Council took steps to abate such overcrowding.

Overcrowding in the area is very considerable due to the shortage of houses and there is still a very considerable amount of work to be done in this connection.

Housing Conditions :—

Bold.

The major portion of the houses in the Parish of Bold are of the working class type, the principal owners being the National Coal Board. This property is in good condition and is well maintained. There is also a fair number of agricultural properties in the Parish, which are generally in good condition.

Cronton.

In the Parish of Cronton the houses are principally of the working class type. Generally, the property is of the smaller type : a number of the older type are sub-standard.

Eccleston.

The houses in the Parish of Eccleston are mainly of the residential type and are well maintained. There is also a fair number of houses of the working class type, many of which are sub-standard, and of considerable age. The agricultural houses are generally in good condition and well maintained.

Hale.

Houses in this Parish are generally of the residential type and are well maintained. The older types are small and are in many cases sub-standard.

Halewood.

Most of the houses in the Parish of Halewood are modern and of the residential type. There is also a considerable number of farm-houses and agricultural workers' cottages. Most of the cottages are in fair condition. There is no congestion. Most of the houses are openly situated.

Kirkby.

To meet the needs of persons working at the Royal Ordnance Factory in the Parish of Kirkby, the Ministry of Supply erected 186 houses and flats in Kirkby. These houses and flats have, since completion, required considerable maintenance. Other properties are of the detached and semi-detached type with a considerable number of agricultural houses and cottages. Dampness is the chief defect in the older types.

Knowsley.

The older houses in the Parish of Knowsley are of the detached or semi-detached type and many are occupied by estate workers. These houses are generally well maintained. A large number of houses have been erected in this Parish by the Liverpool Corporation. In 1941 the Ministry of Aircraft Production erected 496 temporary bungalows in the Parish to house workers employed in war production factories.

Rainhill.

There is a considerable difference in the types of houses in this Parish, a large number of the houses being of the working class type. Of the old houses, dampness is prevalent and many are sub-standard.

Tarbock.

There is only a small number of modern houses in the Parish of Tarbock, the houses generally being farm houses and agricultural cottages. Many of the cottages are old, but are reasonably well maintained.

Whiston.

The houses in the Parish of Whiston are almost all of the working class type. A considerable portion of the older property is of a poor type and there is some congestion. The more modern property is reasonably well maintained.

Windle.

In the Parish of Windle, houses are mainly of the detached or semi-detached type, with a fair number of farm houses. In the main they are fairly well maintained and, with the exception of one small area at Moss Bank, there is no congestion.

Approximate number of back-to-back houses in the rural district : 20.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	3285
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	3524
(2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
(3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	159

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	123
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3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—

Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	12
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	12

Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made....	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders....	10

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year....	565
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	810
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	2520
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Considerable
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year..	153
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases....	612

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

During the year under review the inspection of farm premises by Sanitary Inspectors numbered 135 and a large number of routine inspections were made in co-operation with County Sanitary Officers. During these visits opportunity is taken to impress upon milk producers the necessary for a higher standard of bacteriological purity. To ensure this a high standard of cleanliness in all stages of production and distribution is essential.

Tuberculous Milk :—

During 1948, 69 samples were obtained and submitted to the City Bacteriologist, Liverpool University School of Hygiene and of these 3 samples were found positive. Positive cases are reported to the County Medical Officer of Health to be dealt with by the department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who arrange for the veterinary inspection of the herds concerned.

Improvements have been carried out to several cowsheds in the district.

It is interesting to note that many of the milk producers are turning their attention to the production of designated milk, either Accredited or Tuberculin Tested.

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936 to 1946 :—

Two dealers' licences in respect of "Tuberculin Tested" milk distribution and a further two in respect of "Pasteurised" milk distribution were issued during 1948.

Meat and Other Foods :—

829 lbs. of food were inspected by and surrendered to Sanitary Inspectors during the year.

I have to thank Dr. Hall, the County Medical Officer of Health, for details of sampling under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, carried out in the Rural District.

Of a total of 97 samples, 75 were milk and the 22 others comprised :—

1 Bacon	1 Gin
2 Baking Powder	1 Ground Cloves
2 Butter	1 Margarine
1 Candied Peel	1 Meat Pies
1 Caraway Seeds	1 Pickling Spice
1 Cooking Fat	1 Rum
1 Cream of Tartar	1 Sultanas
2 Flour	4 Sweets

All the milk samples were certified to be genuine but one sample produced by an Accredited Producer was found to contain Tubercle Bacilli.

The sample of rum was found to be below standard and legal proceedings instituted against the vendor resulted in conviction. The remainder of the samples proved to be genuine and free from adulteration.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1948

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total Cases all ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED											Total Deaths	Hospital	
		Age Periods—Years												Total cases removed to hospital from the district	Deaths in hospital of persons belonging to district
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65				65 & over
Smallpox	124		3	8	9	12	52	25	6	8	1		105		
Scarlet fever															
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	4			2		1		1					4		
Enteric or typhoid fever (excluding paratyphoid)															
Paratyphoid fever															
Measles (excluding rubella)	264	14	32	31	39	50	95	3					6		
Whooping cough	250	24	30	33	41	37	82	1	1	1	5	6	7		
Acute pneumonia	34		5	3		2	6						3	5	
(primary and influenza)															
Puerperal pyrexia	17								4	12	1		1		
Cerebro-spinal fever	2			1	1										
Acute poliomyelitis	1		1												
Acute polio-encephalitis															
Acute encephalitis lethargica..															
Dysentery	95	2		1	1				1	23	16	36	3		
Ophthalmia neonatorum															
Erysipelas	8										1	6	1		
Malaria Contracted— In this Country Abroad															
Food poisoning															
Any other diseases <i>notifiable</i> in district, <i>e.g.</i> , :— Chicken-pox															
Totals	799	40	71	79	91	102	235	30	13	44	24	48	130	5	

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The notifications were characterised by a reduced incidence of measles and an increased incidence of whooping cough. A high recorded incidence of dysentery is due to accurate diagnosis and notification of cases in the Rainhill Mental Hospital.

Diphtheria shows a reduction on the previous year, only 4 cases being notified compared with 6 during 1947.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During the first six months of the year propaganda on behalf of diphtheria immunisation was carried out at a high level and 282 pre school children and 182 school children were completely immunised either in Schools or in Clinics.

437 children were given a secondary or reinforcing injection.

Following the inception of the National Health Service Act on the 5th July, 1948, the responsibility for the administration of the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme passed to the Lancashire County Council who are the "Local Health Authority."

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of Tuberculosis and the number of deaths from the disease will be found in the following table.

Age Groups			New Cases						Deaths					
			Respiratory			Non-			Respiratory			Non-		
						Respiratory						Respiratory		
			M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.	
0—	....	....	—	—	....	—	—	....	—	—	....	—	—
1—	....	....	1	—	....	—	—	....	—	—	....	1	—
5—	....	....	—	—	....	6	2	....	—	—	....	—	—
10—	....	....	—	2	....	2	3	....	—	—	....	—	—
15—	....	....	2	1	....	1	—	....	—	—	....	—	—
20—	....	....	1	2	....	1	1	....	—	2	....	—	—
25—	....	....	3	4	....	1	—	....	1	—	....	—	—
35—	....	....	5	5	....	—	—	....	—	—	....	—	—
45—	....	....	3	1	....	—	—	....	3	2	....	—	—
55—	....	....	4	1	....	—	—	....	1	2	....	—	—
65 and upwards	....	....	1	1	....	—	—	....	2	—	....	—	—
			20	17	....	11	6	....	7	6	....	1	—
Totals	37			17			13			1		

The above figures show little change from the previous year when 36 cases of Respiratory and 11 cases of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified.

During 1947 there were 10 deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis and 1 from Non-Respiratory.

PATHOLOGICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

No. of specimens examined in 1948 :—

(a) Diphtheria	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
(b) Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
(c) Enteric Fever	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
(d) Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	....	....	—

DISINFECTION AFTER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

No. of houses disinfected during 1948 :—166

Method :—Formaldehyde

Apparatus used for disinfecting clothing, bedding, etc. :—Steam

Where is apparatus situated :—County Hospital, Whiston.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1.—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Insp'tions	Written notices	Occupiers prose'ted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	11	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	76	36	4	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	86	47	4	—

2.—Cases in which **DEFECTS** were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	3	None	2	None
(c) Not seperate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
Total	4	3	None	2	None

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

Sections 110 and 111

No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) :—

File making	3
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SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS

Complaints.

Defects—

Drainage	132
Refuse	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	67
Housing	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1260
Rats	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	80
General Nuisance	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	542

Notices Served.

Defects—

Drainage	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	22
Refuse	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	60
General Nuisance	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	117

Summary of Inspections.

Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Workshops and Factories	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	47
Dairies and Cowsheds	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	168
Butchers Shops and Food Premises	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	275
Investigation of Infectious Diseases	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	204
Investigation of Public Health Nuisances	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1571
Inspections under Housing Act	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1364
Rodent Investigation	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	640
Bodies recovered	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1394
Estimated kill	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4092
Drainage	306
Refuse Accommodation	560

(Signed) F. W. BUNTING.

Medical Officer of Health.



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